

**f a Fema**

One of the most remarkable sights in Kentucky is a Crow roost, seven miles from Lexington, on the Danville pike. The roost is so old that the mind of the oldest inhabitant of the blue grass region runneth hot to the contrary. Many

At the present there are no large forests in the country near the city, and many pieces of timber have been called into requisition to lodge their black majesties. Hundreds sleep in the open field for want of a limb, and the wrangle over a desirable bed in a tree top is something fearful. By the amount of awing and jawing done every evening, we should think the question of reconstructing the roost, or moving it altogether, is a very serious one.

A gentleman who lives near the roost, who has a fine locust grove in front of his house, was surprised one evening to see it black with crows. For a time it went well, but the roost became popular, and every evening there was a grand

see who would get it. As the desirable place would hold only a few hundreds, and there were some thousands who nightly applied for lodging, the noise and confusion became intolerable. Sometimes in the middle of the night an over-crowded jinnb would break, and then a rattle would ensue, lasting not unfrequently until day light. Tired out with the din that banished the idea of sleep, the next night the old fellow and his son sallied out with shot guns and slew some hundreds of their annoying visitors.—Next morning the crows were all gone,

The other evening we drove out to the roost, and witnessed a sight we shall not soon forget. It was 1 o'clock when we arrived on the ground, and already the crowds had begun to arrive. At sundown they were coming from all directions, and long lines continued entering the woods from every quarter under the dark. Each flock had its fier, or leader, who flew over the tree-tops until he found his roost, when the head of the flock lighted, the rest circling round and round and winding themselves about the chief. (Only a few crows would light

the same tree where the leader lighted, from which fact we judged he is a part of aristocracy with the common herd, and that the persons who slept on his back were his royal family and crows high authority in the flock.

Whether we imagined it or not, certainly it is that on one tree only two or three crows sat, who kept up an incessant cawing, and every now and then one would quit the tree, and, after flying an approaching flock, would return and apparently report to an old fellow who sat on the topmost branch, and never

on wings and constantly grumbling about something. He may have been the king of all the crow nation, and we greeted exceedingly that we did not understand the crow language, so we did not report him correctly to the many readers of the Commercial. At times the venerable cuss spoke in a highly excited and guttural tone, and if we may be allowed to judge by his motion, he is considerable of a tyrant in his governmental affairs. The crows did not seem afraid of us, and were evidently used to human visitors. We drove up quite close to the trees, bending beneath

their weight, but these birds, usually so shy, did not mind us much until my companion initiated the explosion of a gun, when a scene that beggars description followed. Instantly cries arose from all parts of the wood, and thousands of crows flew into the air, circling round and round us, cawing vociferously. At times the noise was so great that although sitting side by side in the buggy, we had to speak loudly in order to be heard by each other. Having raised great distress among our black friends, we drove off, but for miles saw flocks in the air

coming to roost. The rustle of the wings in flying was one of the most peculiar sounds we ever heard, a large flock passing directly over our heads, we ceased to listen, and could compare the noise to nothing but the flutter of a million fans, or the rumpling of vast pieces of silk. Although the crows will not abandon their roost, it is a most annoying one, the boys from the city and adjoining farms are frequently going out with dogs and guns and killing hundreds of them. On a dark night they will not come from a torch, and if it is wet and dark, you can hardly start them up.

A double-barreled shot gun or an old  
racket loaded with slugs, which is  
under a large tree, has been known to  
bring down as many as forty birds.  
This inhuman murder is frequently  
practiced by the youngsters who make bet  
w many crows they can bring down  
at single shot. If startled out of their  
ep, the crows will fly from tree to tree,  
and seem quite helpless, losing in the  
right time all that cunning which charac  
terizes them in daylight. When the  
crowing continues for any time, they will  
fly into the open fields and there sleep

til daylight. As soon as the day be-  
gins to break they quit their roost and  
no one knows where. It has been  
estimated that a crow will fly a hundred  
miles for his breakfast and return after  
supper, and we have not the least doubt  
that many of the crows who sleep in  
sawtucks are citizens of Ohio, Indiana  
and Illinois. We think that about one  
million crows sleep at the Church Roost,  
and about the last of March they will  
leave us and scatter themselves over the  
Southern States, returning again next fall  
to spend the winter with us. A gentle-  
man, who has closely observed them for

any years, says that every year they increase in numbers, that they are slow-passing away, and in time, like the negro or Indian, they will become a defunct race on this continent.—*Cin. Com.*

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THE Newark, N. J., people are out of patience with the steam man, and the purveyor of that city, says: "When you are a humbug, all about an iron boiler in smooch frock, be done with? That which is called 'the steam man' never d, and in all probability, never will, walk the length of his nose."







THE HICKMAN COURIER,  
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(up stairs.)  
GEORGE WARREN, Editor.  
SATURDAY : : MAY 2, 1868.

**The Impeachment.**  
The past week has been consumed in argument by the council and managers. Mr. Starns will close for the council today, and Mr. Bingham for the Managers, Monday and Tuesday. A resolution has been adopted allowing each Senator one hour's time to explain his vote, which will no doubt occupy quite all of the coming week. The removal of the President is now a foregone conclusion, and the people should prepare to meet the fact.

**Party Unity.**  
As we enter the political struggle of 1868, it may not be altogether out of place to consider not only the means necessary to success, but the means necessary to the preservation of the purity of our party organization, in order to make the coming victory in November effective, and to prevent strangers from carrying the party into disrepute and chaos. The Democratic party hold to special principles, that were once held in most of the things most sacred, and held to be absolutely necessary, and the true policy upon which this government should be administered. The perilous times have again called upon the Democracy to battle with the ancient enemy of the Republic—now more dangerous because more reckless and in power—and the dangers of the hour have brought to our aid, and under the protection of our banner, the gallant remnants of old party organizations, who nobly propose to make with us a common cause against a common enemy; but, who, it cannot be expected, have buried the old dogmas of the party to which they belonged and which they held so dear. To the friend who in a moment of peril rushed to the rescue of your family, you would willingly award honor and gratitude, take him within your home circle, and freely give him of the bounty of your table; but, an effort on his part to take charge of and direct your domestic affairs, would be resented as an act of impudence outweighing the gratitude for his assistance. To the old adherents of other parties who are now heroically laboring to assist the Democracy to defeat Radicalism, the gratitude of the country is due; but, we ask, if it is not immediate, in a man, not a Democrat, to attempt to lead Democracy. The history of the last Kentucky Legislature undeniably established the fact that the Democracy, in its efforts to save the Union, was not only the party of the people, but the party of the future.

True, in the contests between Radicalism and Democracy, they boldly stood by our side—and, should a contest ever or anywhere arise, between them and the Radicals, we should urge the Democracy to move in a solid column to their defense—but we do object to these militia men, jumped up in an hour of peril, ranking the regular army of the Democracy. These early in the cause we throw out these suggestions, and while we trust the utmost consideration and generosity may be displayed toward our friends, the advice is not useless, to have an eye to the purity of the party. This should not be overlooked in our National, State, and District Conventions. First, let us inquire if he be Anti-Radical; second, is he a good and true Democrat?

The Paducah Herald, says Judge Burnett, of Smithland, and others, are spoken of by their friends as candidates for Congress in this district. Judge Casswell Bennett owes a bill of \$10, which was authorized and acknowledged in his own hand write, which without any excuse, he fails to pay. If this is an evidence of the Judge's honor and integrity, we beg to be excused from advising our friends to trust him.

**The Judgeship.**—We hear the report that W. J. Stubblefield, Esq. of Murray, Calloway county, is to be a candidate for Circuit Judge in this District. He is a lawyer of ability and experience, and one of the most strictly correct men we ever knew.

The Paducah Herald publishes a call signed "Many Voters," from Graves county, calling on Judge J. M. Biggs to become a candidate for Congress. Can all this "calling" make his election sure?

**Memorial Day.**—The ladies of Tennessee have selected the 10th of May as the day on which they will decorate the graves of the Confederate dead. The 10th ult., the anniversary of the surrender of Gen. Jos. E. Johnston, was the day agreed upon, but owing to a scarcity of flowers they were obliged to defer the ceremony. The brave men who fought and sealed their devotion with their blood, should never be forgotten, or suffered to lie in neglected graves. They sleep, many of them, far from their homes, but still in the bosom of the soil they claim as their country.

The Paducah Herald has appeared in an enlarged form, and is much improved thereby. As the Presidential campaign approaches it begins to assume the vigor and style which characterized it in other days, and which lent the enemies of Democracy such trenchant and heavy blows.

**Our Railroad Troubles.**

We congratulate our citizens upon the prospect of a speedy resumption of trains to this place. The suit in the Federal Court instituted by the city of Hickman, and others, against Gen. W. P. Linn, and others, has been authoritatively withdrawn, so far as the city of Hickman is concerned. The suit is still prosecuted, however, by Messrs. Kingman, Gleason, and Dadds, and the point of sustaining or dissolving the injunction has been argued by some of the ablest lawyers in Tennessee. A decision is not likely to be obtained for several days yet.

Our individual opinion endorses the action of the City Council in withdrawing from the suit. We disapproved the move at the time it was instituted, but we could see no good resulting from it, and had no desire for our city to become involved in the personal matters of ambitious Railroad men, or to ruin her business interest by a fruitless struggle in Tennessee politics. We object to being made a cat's paw to pick chickens out of the fire for others' use. It is of little consequence to us who runs the Railroad, so they run it to Hickman.

Of course, we cannot now tell the result of the suit. If the injunction is sustained, it will have the effect of keeping the new directors under restraint, or possibly, the road may be turned over to the company or an agent. From representations made to us we are quite certain that either the company or Gov. Linn will be able to run the road without help of the bonds in dispute, and we are without a doubt convinced that Gov. Brownlow will never issue the bonds to the old company, Judge Trigg's decision to the contrary notwithstanding. Should the injunction be dissolved, then the Railroad bonds will be issued to the Receiver, the road continued in operation, with the terminus permanently at Hickman.

**Brace of Blackguards.**  
We are glad to see that the Louisville Courier, Nashville Banner, and other leading Southern papers, are "opening out" upon a pair of blackguards who have been and are furnishing Radical capital by wholesale, and sadly retarding the progress of the great Democratic reaction. Such characters have no party or supporters in the Northern States, and by their labored appeals to Southern feeling and prejudice and vindictive denunciation of Northern men and institutions, deceive their readers as to the actual situation of the country. Brick Pomeroy and Chaney Burr are Northern men by birth, education and association, but so violently Southern in their feeling that they would degrade both the man and woman of their own section of country and fatten on their degradation, to lead Southern character and to write a few bold, defiant articles in behalf of the blackguard who have been and are furnishing Radical capital by wholesale, and sadly retarding the progress of the great Democratic reaction. The Louisville Courier says:

"The 'God and morality party' profess to be terribly shocked over the utterances of a half crazy sort of a 'J. N.' orator who stumped New Hampshire for the Democratic party. The ex-Rev. and ex-cavalryman, who is a native of Connecticut, is the individual who aroused the pious souls of the virtuous Radicals to such a pitch of indignation. They say that he openly advocated assassination. And there is another fanatic, whom by a mysterious dispensation of Divine Providence, has control of a newspaper in the Northwest. He calls himself a Democrat, and sets himself up for a genius. His genius consists in being different from every body else. He is a sort of an editorial horned frog—a political showman and a moral monstrosity. During the war he probably never heard the explosion of a shell, yet now it is over, he desires to gather up the fragments of the shattered Union, and 'lost cause,' that he may cherish them in his heart, and get a few more subscribers thereby. When President Lincoln was assassinated, an event which cast universal gloom over the South, and filled the minds of all thinking men with unexpressed dread, this Northwestern editor approved of the horrible deed, and exerted what power he had to secure for it the indorsement of the Democratic party. The coarse and vulgar allusions to Mr. Lincoln's murder have been kept up by him from that day to this, serving to shock the minds of all decent people and furnishing a constant supply of ammunition for the enemies of the Democratic party."

**Not Generally Known.**—Martin Van Buren is the only man who held the offices of President, Vice President, Minister to England, Governor of his own State, and member of both Houses of Congress. Thomas H. Benton is the only man who held a seat in the United States Senate for thirty consecutive years. The only instance of father and son in the United States Senate, at the same time, is that of the Hon. Henry Dodge, Senator from Wisconsin, and his son, Augustus C. Dodge, Senator from Iowa. General James Shields is the only man who ever represented two States in the United States Senate. At one time he was Senator from Illinois, and subsequently from Minnesota. John Quincy Adams held positions under the government during every administration from that of Washington to that of Polk, during which he died. He had been Minister to England, member of both Houses of Congress, Secretary of State, and President of the United States. He died while a member of the House of Representatives.

**Brownlow has postponed** the election of Congressmen at large in Tennessee until the general election in November. Good for the State.

The Springfield Republican, which announced that there was "victory in the air" for the Convention of Radicals now in session, is the opinion that it was all in the air and not in the battle box.

**OUR RAILROAD.**

**Proceedings Before Judge Trigg in the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Injunction Case.**

The case of the Kentucky stockholders of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company against the parties now in possession, on application for an injunction restraining the latter from exercising further control over the road, was taken up before Judge Trigg, Friday, 24th inst.

Mr. Colyar, for complainants, said he would first move to lay the amended bill; (referred to last week) and, second, to enlarge the injunction already granted, by preventing the defendants from making contracts, etc. It was the intention of the complainants to ask to be put in possession of the road.

Mr. East, for the defendants, said that he would move that the injunction against the State Receiver be dissolved, and that the amended bill be not filed.

Mr. Colyar said the whole case turned upon the acts of Assembly which had been read, and as they fully raised the question, the whole case might now be disposed of.

The act of March, 1864, simply by the 7th section authorized the Governor to appoint State Directors in roads in the condition of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad.

These State Directors were appointed shortly after that for this road, and they were allowed by the old Board to take their places. State Directors in the Board.

They were composed of Judge Hawkins, Judge Norton, and others, who acted in harmony with the old Board. During this state of things the law of the 7th of December, 1867, was passed, by which the Legislature gave or loaned to the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company \$250,000 of bonds.

The Receiver managed to get \$100,000 of these bonds, but upon investigation, all parties conceded, so far as I know, in the opinion that the Receiver had no right to these bonds; that they could only be issued to or by the order of the Board. The Board declined to have them issued to Linn, the Receiver, and the organization which is complained of by these bills (the original and amended bills) was set on foot with a view of defeating the company and giving the bonds to the Receiver.

The plan adopted, as we nothing else could be done, to set up rights under the act of the 25th of February, 1868. This act, which was passed for the benefit of an unincorporated road in East Tennessee, provides that the Governor may appoint State Directors in unincorporated roads, and although the preamble to the act of the 7th of December recites that this road is now finished, and although the fact is that way, and the State directors were appointed under the act of March, 1867, yet as these bonds could be obtained in no other way, Commissioners or appointments were obtained from the Governor for these fifteen defendants, comparative strangers.

On the 30th of March, 1868, the next day, the 31st, five of these gentlemen made a call for a meeting of the Board of Directors on the 24th of April. On that day these fifteen commissioned gentlemen met (with one of the old directors who they had appointed) and then organized as a board, and elected a President and other officers, and ordered the bonds to be issued to the Receiver, and the Receiver issued them to the company. The fact is that many of these directors were along the line of the railroad, some in West Tennessee and some in Kentucky. That it was intended they should not be so, and that they were not so, is a fact which while it is no pleasure to impute fraud to any one, the speaker said he could not refrain from referring to the fact. The inquiry naturally comes up, when this call was made for a meeting of the Board, and only one day intervened between the call and the meeting, was it intended that Directors who lived two hundred or two hundred and fifty miles away should be present, or was it intended they should not be present? Counsel were asked how this was.

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These State Directors were appointed shortly after that for this road, and they were allowed by the old Board to take their places. State Directors in the Board.

They were composed of Judge Hawkins, Judge Norton, and others, who acted in harmony with the old Board. During this state of things the law of the 7th of December, 1867, was passed, by which the Legislature gave or loaned to the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company \$250,000 of bonds.

The Receiver managed to get \$100,000 of these bonds, but upon investigation, all parties conceded, so far as I know, in the opinion that the Receiver had no right to these bonds; that they could only be issued to or by the order of the Board. The Board declined to have them issued to Linn, the Receiver, and the organization which is complained of by these bills (the original and amended bills) was set on foot with a view of defeating the company and giving the bonds to the Receiver.

The plan adopted, as we nothing else could be done, to set up rights under the act of the 25th of February, 1868. This act, which was passed for the benefit of an unincorporated road in East Tennessee, provides that the Governor may appoint State Directors in unincorporated roads, and although the preamble to the act of the 7th of December recites that this road is now finished, and although the fact is that way, and the State directors were appointed under the act of March, 1867, yet as these bonds could be obtained in no other way, Commissioners or appointments were obtained from the Governor for these fifteen defendants, comparative strangers.

On the 30th of March, 1868, the next day, the 31st, five of these gentlemen made a call for a meeting of the Board of Directors on the 24th of April. On that day these fifteen commissioned gentlemen met (with one of the old directors who they had appointed) and then organized as a board, and elected a President and other officers, and ordered the bonds to be issued to the Receiver, and the Receiver issued them to the company. The fact is that many of these directors were along the line of the railroad, some in West Tennessee and some in Kentucky. That it was intended they should not be so, and that they were not so, is a fact which while it is no pleasure to impute fraud to any one, the speaker said he could not refrain from referring to the fact. The inquiry naturally comes up, when this call was made for a meeting of the Board, and only one day intervened between the call and the meeting, was it intended that Directors who lived two hundred or two hundred and fifty miles away should be present, or was it intended they should not be present? Counsel were asked how this was.

**OUR RAILROAD.**

The case of the Kentucky stockholders of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company against the parties now in possession, on application for an injunction restraining the latter from exercising further control over the road, was taken up before Judge Trigg, Friday, 24th inst.

Mr. Colyar, for complainants, said he would first move to lay the amended bill; (referred to last week) and, second, to enlarge the injunction already granted, by preventing the defendants from making contracts, etc. It was the intention of the complainants to ask to be put in possession of the road.

Mr. East, for the defendants, said that he would move that the injunction against the State Receiver be dissolved, and that the amended bill be not filed.

Mr. Colyar said the whole case turned upon the acts of Assembly which had been read, and as they fully raised the question, the whole case might now be disposed of.

The act of March, 1864, simply by the 7th section authorized the Governor to appoint State Directors in roads in the condition of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad.

These State Directors were appointed shortly after that for this road, and they were allowed by the old Board to take their places. State Directors in the Board.

They were composed of Judge Hawkins, Judge Norton, and others, who acted in harmony with the old Board. During this state of things the law of the 7th of December, 1867, was passed, by which the Legislature gave or loaned to the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company \$250,000 of bonds.

The Receiver managed to get \$100,000 of these bonds, but upon investigation, all parties conceded, so far as I know, in the opinion that the Receiver had no right to these bonds; that they could only be issued to or by the order of the Board. The Board declined to have them issued to Linn, the Receiver, and the organization which is complained of by these bills (the original and amended bills) was set on foot with a view of defeating the company and giving the bonds to the Receiver.

The plan adopted, as we nothing else could be done, to set up rights under the act of the 25th of February, 1868. This act, which was passed for the benefit of an unincorporated road in East Tennessee, provides that the Governor may appoint State Directors in unincorporated roads, and although the preamble to the act of the 7th of December recites that this road is now finished, and although the fact is that way, and the State directors were appointed under the act of March, 1867, yet as these bonds could be obtained in no other way, Commissioners or appointments were obtained from the Governor for these fifteen defendants, comparative strangers.

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